



# RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Question 1. Which is the most important issue for Congress to address?**

a. Balancing the budget	12.3%
b. Health care	10.9%
c. Campaign finance reform	9.7%
d. Taxes	9.7%
e. Education	8.4%
f. Gun control	7.7%
g. Social Security	7.1%
h. Crime/Drugs	5.5%

*Abortion, Animal welfare, Arts funding, China/U.S. relations, Environment, Ethics in government, Gambling, Immigration, Income gap between rich and poor, Legal/Tort reform, Medicare, National defense, Race relations, Puerto Rico's political status, Transportation, Veterans' issues, Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem all fell below 5 percent.*

**Question 2. Which is the second most important?**

**Issues receiving more than 5%:**

a. Health care	11.7%
b. Social Security	10.2%
c. Education	9.2%
d. Gun control	8.2%
e. Balancing the budget	8.0%
f. Taxes	6.8%
g. Campaign finance reform	6.6%
h. Medicare	6.3%
i. Crime/Drugs	6.0%

**Question 3. Which is the third most important?**

**Issues receiving more than 5%:**

a. Health care	10.3%
b. Social Security	9.3%
c. Education	7.6%
d. Gun control	7.4%
e. Taxes	6.8%
f. Campaign finance reform	6.3%
g. Crime/Drugs	6.3%
h. Balancing the budget	6.2%
i. Medicare	5.7%
j. Ethics in government	5.5%

**Question 4. Which is the most important local issue facing you and your family?**

a. Taxes	27.7%
b. I-95/Merritt congestion	19.9%
c. Education	10.4%
d. Affordable housing	9.4%
e. Crime/Drugs	9.4%
f. Open space/Urban sprawl	7.1%

*Aircraft noise, Child care, Economic development, Long Island Sound protection, Metro North/Public transit, Postal Service and Unemployment all fell below 5 percent.*

**Question 5. Which is the second most important?**

**Issues receiving more than 5%:**

a. I-95/Merritt congestion	17.3%
b. Crime/Drugs	14.7%
c. Taxes	14.7%
d. Education	10.4%
e. Open space/Urban sprawl	8.8%
f. Long Island Sound protection	8.0%
g. Affordable housing	5.9%

**As a result of recent school shootings like those in Littleton and Jonesboro, national attention has been focused on how to prevent such tragedies from recurring. Debate in Congress has focused on two main areas: violence in our culture and the proliferation of guns.**

**Question 6. What should be done about violence in movies, music, video games and on the Internet?**

a. Enact legislation restricting children's access to violent forms of entertainment	27.3%
b. Encourage the entertainment industry to regulate itself.	29.5%
c. Allow communities to set their own local standards regarding violent content.	6.6%
d. Leave the responsibility to parents to control their children's exposure to media.	30.7%
e. Other	4.2%

**Question 7. Which is closest to your position on gun laws?**

a. Remove all restrictions on the right to bear arms.	3.5%
b. Improve enforcement of existing gun laws.	20.9%
c. Require trigger locks to be sold with all handguns.	3.5%
d. Require a mandatory three-day background check for anyone who wants to purchase a handgun.	14.5%
e. Require licenses for gun owners.	10.4%
f. Register all guns and gun transactions.	13.4%
g. Ban all handguns and semi-automatic firearms.	30.5%
h. Other	2.0%

**Question 8. Which best reflects your views on legal gambling, including lotteries and casinos?**

a. Legalized gambling provides economic benefits and entertainment and should be allowed to grow.	21.5%
b. The spread of legalized gambling should be contained.	56.1%
c. Gambling has a negative social impact and should be banned.	16.5%
d. Other	4.5%

**Question 9. Which best reflects your views on the United States' trade embargo on Cuba?**

a. Leave the embargo in place.	20.1%
b. Remove the embargo on humanitarian aid, such as food and medicine.	23.8%
c. Phase out the embargo over time.	29.3%
d. Eliminate the embargo immediately.	22.2%
e. Other	2.4%

**Question 10. Which best reflects your views on the 7,000 United States troops currently assigned to the international peacekeeping mission in Kosovo?**

a. Continue participation in the peacekeeping mission as long as necessary to maintain peace and stability in Kosovo.	43.0%
b. Set a strict deadline for completion of the peacekeeping mission and then withdraw all forces from the region.	40.9%
c. Withdraw U.S. forces immediately.	11.9%
d. Other	2.6%

**Question 11. Which best reflects your views on reform of public education?**

a. Increase public school resources.	31.0%
b. Build on current public education reforms by expanding charter and magnet schools.	18.1%
c. Expand beyond current reform efforts and pass school choice among public schools.	7.2%
d. Allow for school choice among public, private and parochial schools.	34.6%
e. Other	6.9%

**Question 12. Which best reflects your views on providing prescription drug benefits to Medicare recipients?**

a. Prescription drug benefits should be fully subsidized by Medicare for all seniors regardless of current coverage or income.	32.4%
b. Tax benefits should be provided to all seniors for the purchase of prescription drugs outside of the Medicare program.	25.3%
c. Benefits should only be provided for the one-third of seniors who currently don't have prescription drug benefits.	29.1%
d. There is no need to provide Medicare prescription drug benefits.	5.1%
e. Other	5.8%

**Question 13. What would best aid individuals trying to make the transition from welfare to work?**

a. Child care assistance	28.0%
b. Job training/education	53.5%
c. Improved public transportation	2.1%
d. Affordable health care coverage	5.6%
e. Food assistance programs	0.7%
f. Safe, affordable housing	4.1%
g. Other	3.9%

**Question 14. What should Congress' first priority be in utilizing the estimated budget surplus of \$2.9 trillion?**

a. Pay down the national debt.	42.0%
b. Use surplus money to bolster the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.	32.0%
c. Expand programs like Medicare to include new benefits.	4.0%
d. Increase domestic spending.	1.5%
e. Increase defense spending.	0.9%
f. Increase U.S. foreign aid.	0.1%
g. Cut taxes.	17.5%
h. Other	0.9%

<b>Question 15. What should be the second priority?</b>		
a.	Pay down the national debt.	27.0%
b.	Use surplus money to bolster the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.	32.7%
c.	Expand programs like Medicare to include new benefits.	9.8%
d.	Increase domestic spending.	3.2%
e.	Increase defense spending.	4.2%
f.	Increase U.S. foreign aid.	0.6%
g.	Cut taxes.	19.5%
h.	Other	1.4%

<b>Question 16. What tax cut proposal is most important to you?</b>		
a.	Reduce the personal income tax.	37.3%
b.	Lower the capital gains tax.	8.9%
c.	Eliminate the estate and gift tax.	15.9%
d.	Provide marriage penalty tax relief.	8.8%
e.	Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for individuals and businesses.	1.1%
f.	Increase individual retirement account (IRA) contributions.	4.7%
g.	Provide full deductibility for health care costs for self-employed.	5.2%
h.	Create tax benefits for long term care insurance.	5.7%
i.	Expand tax incentives for distressed urban and rural areas.	3.0%
j.	Do not cut taxes	6.5%
k.	Other	1.3%

<b>Question 17. It is too easy to file lawsuits and collect large settlements against doctors, employers and businesses.</b>		
a.	Strongly agree	40.9%
b.	Agree	29.7%
c.	No opinion	8.5%
d.	Disagree	14.4%
e.	Strongly disagree	4.8%

<b>Question 18. The United States needs to pay the \$1 billion in back dues and peacekeeping costs it owes the United Nations.</b>		
a.	Strongly agree	25.7%
b.	Agree	30.3%
c.	No opinion	17.6%
d.	Disagree	14.0%
e.	Strongly disagree	10.6%

<b>Question 19. The threat of nuclear attack justifies the deployment by the United States of a national missile defense system.</b>		
a.	Strongly agree	26.5%
b.	Agree	36.4%
c.	No opinion	11.9%
d.	Disagree	16.2%
e.	Strongly disagree	6.9%

<b>Question 20. Our democracy is threatened by the influence of unlimited campaign contributions by individuals, corporations, labor unions and other interest groups.</b>		
a.	Strongly agree	55.3%
b.	Agree	27.5%
c.	No opinion	5.3%
d.	Disagree	7.4%
e.	Strongly disagree	2.7%

<b>Question 21. It should be illegal to hire or fire an individual based solely on sexual orientation.</b>		
a.	Strongly agree	48.8%
b.	Agree	26.7%
c.	No opinion	6.5%
d.	Disagree	8.9%
e.	Strongly disagree	7.1%

<b>Question 22. What primary means of transportation do you use to get to work?</b>		
a.	Drive myself	53.0%
b.	Carpool/vanpool	1.0%
c.	Train	8.2%
d.	Bus	0.9%
e.	Bike	0.2%
f.	Walk	1.1%
g.	Work at home	5.3%
h.	Dropped off at work	0.3%
i.	Other	0.5%
j.	Not applicable	27.2%

<b>Question 23. Which services would make it easier for you to get to work, or encourage you not to drive alone?</b>		
a.	More frequent transit service	6.4%
b.	Expanded regional bus service	6.4%
c.	Reduced train fares	6.9%
d.	Free emergency rides home	0.8%
e.	Shuttles that connect to and from transit	5.6%
f.	Bike paths	2.4%
g.	Additional sidewalks	0.9%
h.	More carpool lots	0.5%
i.	More parking spots at train stations	4.9%
j.	Company cars for use during the day	2.6%
k.	Stores and conveniences located at work	0.6%
l.	Other	5.0%
m.	Not applicable	54.5%

For each of the following issues indicate where you put the highest level of government responsibility.

<b>Question 24. Affordable housing</b>		
a.	Federal	18.4%
b.	State	35.8%
c.	Local	29.7%
d.	Not a government responsibility	13.3%

<b>Question 25. Child care</b>		
a.	Federal	5.9%
b.	State	33.7%
c.	Local	27.7%
d.	Not a government responsibility	19.9%

<b>Question 26. Crime/Drugs</b>		
a.	Federal	57.3%
b.	State	22.2%
c.	Local	17.1%
d.	Not a government responsibility	0.6%

<b>Question 27. Education</b>		
a.	Federal	25.3%
b.	State	38.7%
c.	Local	32.3%
d.	Not a government responsibility	1.3%

<b>Question 28. Environment</b>		
a.	Federal	66.4%
b.	State	21.5%
c.	Local	8.7%
d.	Not a government responsibility	1.1%

<b>Question 29. Gun control</b>		
a.	Federal	74.1%
b.	State	14.4%
c.	Local	4.6%
d.	Not a government responsibility	4.5%

<b>Question 30. Open space</b>		
a.	Federal	18.9%
b.	State	34.0%
c.	Local	41.3%
d.	Not a government responsibility	3.0%

<b>Question 31. Transportation</b>		
a.	Federal	26.5%
b.	State	51.6%
c.	Local	17.2%
d.	Not a government responsibility	2.0%

<b>Question 32. Urban development</b>		
a.	Federal	11.5%
b.	State	46.3%
c.	Local	36.2%
d.	Not a government responsibility	3.2%

<b>Question 33. Welfare reform</b>		
a.	Federal	51.3%
b.	State	39.5%
c.	Local	5.2%
d.	Not a government responsibility	1.0%

<b>Question 34. What managed health care reform proposal is most important to you?</b>		
a.	Mandate a minimum standard of care.	16.7%
b.	Guarantee access to specialists.	16.1%
c.	Ensure prescription drug coverage.	9.1%
d.	Subject decisions of managed care plans to third-party review.	13.2%
e.	Grant enrollees the right to sue their managed care plans.	8.8%
f.	Leave the managed healthcare system as it is.	3.9%
g.	End the role of managed care providers in the health care system.	24.0%
h.	Other	5.3%

<b>Question 35. What should be the first step in reforming Social Security?</b>		
a.	Remove the Social Security payroll tax cap on earnings up to a maximum of \$72,600.	16.3%
b.	Reduce benefits to wealthy retirees, raise the retirement age, and require city and state employees to join the Social Security system.	26.5%
c.	Decrease annual cost of living adjustments.	2.1%
d.	Invest the Social Security Trust Fund in stocks, bonds and treasury bills to improve the rate of return.	14.5%
e.	Lower the payroll tax and require individuals to invest their money in retirement savings accounts.	18.0%
f.	Do not change Social Security.	11.7%
g.	Other	7.7%

<b>Question 36. Are you better off than you were five years ago?</b>		
a.	No	20.2%
b.	About the same	37.5%
c.	Yes	40.2%

*Figures do not total 100% because “no response” answers are not included.*  
*The questionnaire was sent to 247,945 households in the Fourth Congressional District, and our office received 14,750 responses, a 5.9 percent response. A constituent who conducts polls professionally suggested I make clear that because the questionnaire was not done using scientific survey methods, the responses may not be representative of the adult population.*





# QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS

## Budget/Surplus

“If I trusted our government I would say definitely pay down the debt first. However, Clinton’s actions, even now indicate: spend, spend, spend, and give away, give away. I resent this. And Congress should not allow it.” (Stamford)

“On the not-yet-realized budget surplus... the surplus should be utilized only after it becomes a reality. I think in our economy 10 year estimates may not be realistic. What if the money is allocated and our economy goes sour?” (Trumbull)

“If we pay off the debt we will save billions each year on interest. The government should be recommending that companies do the same.” (Fairfield)

“[The] surplus should be put to good use by helping those on welfare, mental health programs for the sick, recreational programs for children, teens and retired people.” (Greenwich)

“What surplus? There is no surplus when you have a national debt.” (Norwalk)

“It is extremely important to pay off a portion of the national debt while the economy is still strong. We must solve this national debt problem and not pass it on to our children.” (Westport)

“Stop the government from increasing spending beyond the level of inflation. Stay focused on the big picture and let the state do its job.” (Fairfield)

## Taxes

“Why should 10 percent of all taxpayers contribute 60 to 70 percent of all tax dollars? And for all the taxes we pay, we only get one vote each.” (Stamford)

“The most urgent tax issue – more than tax cuts – simplification of the income tax system.” (Greenwich)

“Flat tax! No favors. No favorites. Everybody pays the same rate. Keep it simple.” (Fairfield)

“Eliminate the income tax! Use a national sales tax!” (Norwalk)

“Cut the unfair marriage penalty. Most families must have both working in order to have a decent lifestyle and raise a family.” (Trumbull)

“If you want to cut taxes, the most equitable way would be to cut the Social Security FICA tax or make it tax deductible.” (New Canaan)

“Why did you vote in favor of tax cuts? Hardly a fiscally responsible position.” (Bridgeport)

“I’m glad President Clinton vetoed the tax cuts. In a good economy money should be saved and set aside for bad times.” (Greenwich)

“The Republican tax cut should be approved. If any money beyond what is necessary to fix Social Security, Medicare and pay down the debt is left it will be spent by Washington.” (Westport)

“Tax cuts, when there is such an urgent need to address this country’s infrastructure including outdated, ill-equipped schools and bringing literacy to 20 to 40 percent of our adult population, are self-serving and narrow minded.” (Stamford)

“State and local taxes continue to increase and I have less disposable income. Too much big government in our lives.” (Monroe)

## Social Security

“Eliminate Social Security. Force savings into investments of an individual’s choice is a preferred option.” (Westport)

“I think you should be able to earn without limits and still collect Social Security... As usual the poor who must still work are penalized.” (Stamford)

“Reduce benefits to wealthy retirees. Require state and city employees to join the Social Security system.” (Greenwich)

“Allow individuals to invest a small portion of the tax in private retirement saving accounts.” (Stamford)

“I want to opt out of Social Security. You guys will never fix it correctly.” (New Canaan)

“Please do not allow Social Security funds to be invested in private sector stocks and bonds.” (Norwalk)

“Use standard accounting principles on Social Security, just like 401(k) and pension plans have to follow. Eliminate the Ponzi scheme.” (New Canaan)

“I am 72 years old and my husband is 76. He developed encephalitis and can no longer work...There is no way I can work forever and he cannot work at all. Please leave Social Security alone.” (Bridgeport)

## Trade/Jobs/Economic Development

“Working more hours, taking home less money, have little time for family...any relief in sight?” (Trumbull)

“Local mill tax is exorbitant in Bridgeport. Economic development is badly needed to give relief to property owners.” (Bridgeport)

“Urban sprawl and their associated traffic problems need to be addressed. Ban strip malls!” (Stamford)

“Unlike the politicians I attribute the health of the economy and my personal status as being a result of my hard work, not the party or person who is currently in office.” (Trumbull)

## Congress/Federal Government

“We need a vision. Government cannot do everything for people. We can manage most problems ourselves.” (Darien)

“At the moment, government resembles a Big Mac. It has little taste and is very homogenous. It is dominated by big business and changes very little or not at all from year to year.” (Greenwich)

“Collectively, Congress and government in general get failing marks for your performance because: 1) you’re reactive and not proactive 2) you sell your soul to the highest bidder 3) you wouldn’t know ‘bipartisanship’ if it came and bit you.” (Monroe)

“Our state and federal legislators are paid too much. The establishment of full time professional politicians has led to the creation of an unresponsive ruling class which is overly concerned with its own self interest in place of the citizen’s true needs and common sense.” (Norwalk)

“Members of Congress and other politicians must spend less time and energy attacking the opposing party and more time addressing issues.” (Darien)

“One-issue politics is the greatest threat to our democratic processes and left unchecked it may kill the system.” (New Canaan)

“I wish somehow people could be made prouder of their governments and more interested in less material objects.” (Darien)

## Campaign Finance

“Our democracy is not only threatened by current campaign financing, it is completely dysfunctional. The current M.O. [modus operandi] of campaign finance poses a greater threat to our democracy, the bill of rights and our national security than any external threat, bar none.” (Norwalk)

“We are registered Republicans who are absolutely appalled by the fact that lobbies and interest groups are successful in thwarting the popular will so often. Examples include: NRA, big tobacco, moral majority. Campaign limits are more important than term limits.” (Norwalk)

“We do not agree with your position on campaign finance reform – it curbs our political free speech. (Fairfield)

“We would like to know that all our local, state and federal representatives and President take a position on an issue based on its merits and not how much money they stand to lose or gain in campaign contributions.” (Fairfield)

“We commend you for your leadership in the campaign finance reform issue. It’s the difference between living in a democracy and not.” (Stamford)

Transportation

“In order to relieve congestion on I-95 and Merritt Parkway, Metro North rail fare should be reduced. As a two commuter household, we pay over \$500 a month to commute. This price is ludicrous and quite a bit higher than the LIRR and Metro North, New York Line.” (Fairfield)

“More than congestion on I-95 and the Merritt is the problem of speed. In this area, 55 miles per hour is posted but 65 to 70 is driven. In Hartford, now that 65 is posted, 70 to 80 is driven.” (Fairfield)

“I-95 and the Merritt were designed so they could add another lane on both sides... The lost opportunity cost due to being stuck in traffic far outweighs (over time) the cost of adding more lanes, especially in lower Fairfield county.” (New Canaan)

“Westport desperately needs highway noise barriers.” (Westport)

“We are extremely opposed to sound barriers on I-95. We should plant trees, not fences.” (Norwalk)

“The main traffic problem is trucks. Trucks cause traffic jams, aggravate accidents, waste petroleum, increase pollution, and wear out pavement. How do we get all heavy, long-distance freight shipped by railroad?” (Darien)

“Parking should be free at train parking lots in order to reduce cost and encourage use of mass transportation.” (Trumbull)

“To eliminate driving, encourage employers to let people do clerical work in their home offices.” (Bridgeport)

Education

“Early intervention/support for disadvantaged children and families is essential, e.g. parent education, preschool education, high quality and affordable child care, etc. If children start off right, perhaps cycles of abuses, welfare ‘poverty’, criminal behavior may be averted.” (New Canaan)

“I support choice between public, private and parochial schools because choice encourages competition and quality within the schools, just as it does in business.” (Norwalk)

“I am a public school teacher. I feel vouchers will destroy our public schools. Money should be channeled into improving inner-city schools. Give these children who have the least in our country the best opportunity.” (Fairfield)

“If we do not put a stop to charter and magnet schools now, they will become hugely expensive, out of our control schools where we know nothing of what’s going on. As of today they discriminate against the average student. Public schools should be equal for all.” (Norwalk)

“The ability of public schools to remove unruly students from classrooms should be strengthened. A few bad students can ruin the educational process for the majority of students.” (Monroe)

“Without family support the child is not going to keep up or excel. Family, family, family – not money, money, money.” (Fairfield)

“Get rid of the Department of Education and the teachers’ union and schools will become better.” (Westport)

Health Care/Managed Care

“Let people paying health care decide on cost, length of stay needed with doctors or hospitals and if coverage is suitable.” (Bridgeport)

“The AMA and ADA and other medical associations need to recognize new preventative treatments and cease harassment of practitioners of holistic medicine.” (Norwalk)

“Health care needs rational attention, not more bureaucracy. No one seems happy with the system today and we are going to achieve mediocrity if we’re not attentive.” (New Canaan)

“It is time for all Americans to be covered by some (at least basic) form of health care guarantee. I support the patient’s bill of rights.” (Fairfield)

“HMOs should be eliminated.” (Darien)

“We need to look at some form of national health care: federal funding with state control.” (Westport)

“There needs to be help for the individual who is not old enough to be on Medicare and not able to participate in a company health plan. The HMOs are dropping the individual payer because it is not cost effective. If nothing else, at least a full deduction should be allowed for anyone who bears the entire cost of their own health care.” (Stamford)

Medicare

“Extend Medicare system in stages so as to cover all Americans.” (Fairfield)

“Given my father’s aging and progressive illness, I have become concerned about the recent changes in the Medicare system. It now does not cover long-term care for the length of time needed. There have been too many cuts.” (Bridgeport)

“Senior citizens need desperately more assistance with payments for their prescription medications. The older you get the more prescriptions you get.” (Trumbull)

“Prescription drug benefits should be subsidized by Medicare for seniors according to income.” (Greenwich)

Seniors Issues

“Reauthorize the Older Americans Act.” (Westport)

“COLA for seniors should be based on current cost of living such as: housing, taxes, food, insurance and any other daily expense.” (Fairfield)

“Because we are on a fixed income, small increases here and there are nibbling away at our spendable income, not to mention major increases; medical, dental, taxes and the fact as we age, we have to hire people to do things we used to be able to do for ourselves.” (Westport)

“I’m just happy to wake up in the morning. We seniors worry and hope.” (Stamford)

Gun Control

“Stop playing politics... guns don’t kill people – people do; cars don’t kill people – people do; movies don’t kill people – people do. We have too many more complex problems you have to deal with.” (Fairfield)

“If you were to enact changes to the present gun laws that were closer to how we treat automobiles, perhaps that would be acceptable to both sides of the gun control issue.” (Trumbull)

“Guns should be regulated more strictly than cars: safety regulations for manufacture and sale; registration; inspection; user licenses (which can be suspended or revoked); etc. Or else ban them entirely.” (New Canaan)

“Preserve the second amendment.” (Greenwich)

“I do believe government intervention is the only real solution. The original purpose of the 2nd amendment has been twisted and subverted to serve the purposes of people whose paranoid and militant outlook frankly terrifies me.” (Darien)

“If everybody is armed and trained with firearms, it keeps the playing field equal.” (Bridgeport)

“The second amendment should be repealed.” (Stamford)



“Ban all guns. Hunting should be illegal. No reason to kill anything that lives and breathes.” (Bridgeport)

**Violence in the Media/Youth Violence**

“Congress seems to be missing a major area related to the recent school shootings. Understanding the root causes to determine why people commit these acts, then developing legislation that addresses these root causes.” (Greenwich)

“Encourage parents to control their children’s behavior. Educate them on the signs of depression and how to react appropriately.” (New Canaan)

“I disagree with the original premise that these problems are caused by violence in cultural venues or proliferation of guns. This is the first generation raised by working mothers and our country’s lack of decent child care from infancy and after school programs have affected these children in pathological ways.” (Greenwich)

“Parents and churches should take on the problem. Where were the churches when these young people went over the edge?” (Trumbull)

“Legislate and reeducate violence to be viewed and treated like pornography.” (New Canaan)

**Crime/Drugs**

“Keep criminals in prison for their full term of sentence.” (Bridgeport)

“We need drug law reform to keep minor users/dealers out of expensive prisons and in rehabilitation/assistance programs.” (Norwalk)

“Release from prison those who are there because of drug use. Legalize marijuana and free up prison space for gun criminals and murderers.” (Norwalk)

“The U.S. should take lessons in dealing with crime from Singapore. All this killing and mayhem would soon disappear.” (Trumbull)

**National Defense/International Affairs**

“Defense spending creates technological advances which has propelled the United States in its current eight year expansion. Without technology the U.S. will become another Europe.” (Stamford)

“I strongly favor universal military training for 18 year old males and suggest it be proposed for legislation.” (Greenwich)

“We think it is a disgrace that enlisted men and women in a volunteer Army have to use food stamps to supplement their income. A decent wage, comparable to the private sector should be paid to all the men and women in uniform who serve our country.” (Norwalk)

“Let Kosovo, Bosnia, etc. solve and settle their own conflicts. If any group is to be peacekeepers they should be the Europeans. It is in their backyards.” (New Canaan)

“I urge you to speak out on foreign affairs – as the Republicans seem to be moving back into isolationism.” (Stamford)

“Leave China alone on its right to Taiwan. If we get involved with them, we will go the way of the Roman Empire.” (Trumbull)

“The embargo on Cuba is absurd, considering that we are now ‘allies’ with Russia, and building relations with Vietnam. Communism won’t last if we open up the doors to free enterprise development.” (Westport)

**Environment**

“We seal the death of the earth through lack of understanding, foresight and leadership. Please lead the fight to save the most precious gift.” (Stamford)

“I feel that protecting our environment for ourselves, wildlife and future generations should be our number one concern. If we can’t drink the water or breathe the air, not too much else is going to matter.” (Norwalk)

“As a board member of the Nature Center, I am constantly amazed at the general public’s lack of interest in the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.” (Westport)

“I think the Federal government should take a much more active role in encouraging the development of alternative energy sources. It is foolish to wait until the planet’s gas, oil, and coal supplies run out before we start thinking about this problem.” (Trumbull)

“Clean up Long Island Sound.” (Darien)

**Other Issues**

“Leaf blowers should be greatly restricted.” (Greenwich)

“I believe all citizens should be allowed to attend a dinner at the White House at least once.” (Fairfield)

“The film industry – one of the U.S.’s largest exports -- is dead in New York, Connecticut and California because films are being made in Canada.” (Westport)

“Don’t forget the importance of music and the arts to our lives.” (Greenwich)

“I see so many animals neglected and abused. Yet the offender gets a fine. I feel that mandatory jail time is overdue.” (Fairfield)

“I pledge to vote for any politician who fights to remove the 8pm curfew on beer sales. It’s not fair to working commuters.” (Greenwich)

“Protect our children from e-commerce Armageddon.” (Trumbull)

“Car telephone use should be illegal while driving.” (Norwalk)

“If we all do the right thing, care about others as well as ourselves – we can make it a great country.” (Westport)

**Questionnaire**

“Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions on the major concerns in an easy way. This questionnaire should be sent out on the local levels also. Keep up the good work!” (New Canaan)

“I appreciate your making the effort to find what people are thinking. Unfortunately, for those who want to live in a free country, most of the questions suggest a government solution for a problem that – more often than not – is actually caused by government.” (Trumbull)

“One of the outstanding questionnaires I’ve seen, political or otherwise. It is comprehensive, thoughtful and seems to avoid bias and trickery – not always easy.” (New Canaan)

“I appreciate the opportunity to share my views, but I believe that this is a poorly designed questionnaire and it tends to be biased – too many of my answers fall into the ‘other’ category – where I have alternative answers but no means to convey them.” (Monroe)

“The design of this questionnaire is well below acceptable professional standards. Why not focus on just a few issues and obtain clear insights from the public.” (Norwalk)

“Who thought up a form that is not laser read, requires tape, and needs a stamp, especially since my tax dollar paid for this to begin with?” (Westport)

“Your questionnaire was most thoughtfully presented – and it took me a while to think out my position on many questions. I can see that it is not easy getting 435 congressmen to agree on legislation.” (Stamford)